CLOSING WORSHIP FOR THE DEACONESS COMMUNITY
VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY – APRIL 7-11, 2021

The assembly speaks the words in bold.

WORSHIP OPENING
The amazing grace of our Sibling, Jesus Christ, the enormous love of God, and the comforting communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen

Remembering those created by God, who died of the corona virus, let us silently pray.

A time of silence is kept to remember the dead.

Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your people. (Ps. 116.15)

Amen
HYMN

In Thee is Gladness

Recording used is from Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 B, July 29, 2018 with Cantor David Cherwien on the organ. (Hymn introduction recorded at a funeral Eucharist on June 3, 2013 at Mount Olive.)

1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart. By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art. Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou change them with a breath. Wherefore the story tell of his

2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death. He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can breakest. Who trusts thee surely has built securely glory with heart and voices; all heav’n rejoices and stands forever: Alleluia! Our hearts are pinning to see thy shining, dying or living, gladness, triumph o’er sadness, love him and praise him to thee are clearing; naught can us sever: Alleluia! and still shall raise him glad hymns forever: Alleluia!
God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD AND R&R TEAM MEMBERS

INSTALLATION OF DEACONESS COMMUNITY DIRECTING DEACONESS

DEACONESS COMMUNITY COVENANT LITANY

In this community, we celebrate that all life comes through the Word; every person we encounter, including ourselves, is made in God’s image and shows us the face of Christ. God’s creation continues to unfold in and around us, and we give thanks for God’s abundant grace. We are beloved, and we serve God’s beloved world.

We are rooted in the living Word and love of God.

In this community, we confess our limitations and face our humanity. We have been, individually and collectively, bound up in sin. Fear and the negation of self or other can undermine our vocations in love and service. Simultaneously, we carry forward a heritage of womxn who are courageous and persistent, and whose love and service inspire our own. We are a living community, flesh and blood, spirit and grace.

We are emboldened by our history.

Compelled by the love of Christ, our community exists for the sake of the world. The Spirit calls us as sisters to enliven the gifts of community through our stewardship and care. We commit ourselves to lifelong professional development and spiritual pilgrimage. Though dispersed across nations, we gather for Assembly – to work, pray, play, and deepen relationships. We cultivate mutual stances of accountability and grace, serve where call and ability meet, pray for one another, and seek to engage one another with positive regard. As Christ loves us, we seek to love.

We are accountable to intentional community.

We have accepted God’s call within our heart and from the church to be servant leaders. We celebrate the privileges and responsibilities of leadership. We affirm the broad spectrum of ways we serve in our various contexts. All leadership requires our courage. While we cannot offer lives above reproach, we can offer ourselves as living models of humility. Though we stumble, we can embrace courage to take prophetic risk and to live out radical love. As we seek to honor our God-given vocations and accountabilities, we listen deeply for the Spirit’s guidance.

We practice courageous leadership.

God’s inclusive love calls us to extend radical welcome. Blind, biased, and broken in relationship with one another, we have been complicit in this world’s order of oppression and degradation.
We ask God to open our eyes, for God’s Spirit to root out bias from our thought, word, and deed. We commit ourselves to seek restitution and reconciliation where brokenness harms God’s beloved children. When we discriminate or oppress, we will repent and promote human dignity and equity for all. We hold ourselves and others with power accountable to these principles, surrendering to the knowledge that we cannot justify ourselves. Only by God’s grace are we freed to love and serve.

**We practice radical welcome.**

All that God has created is good. We celebrate the many in God’s world who work collaboratively for the betterment of all. Just as we affirm that as sisters we are stronger together, we affirm that our community’s love and service is stronger in partnership with others. We offer all that we have and are: our prayers, our financial resources, our networks and influence, our advocacy, and our sincere care to the world. We receive with humility and gratitude the gifts, talents, and resources of our partner organizations. We pray for the strength of our relationships in the tapestry of all that work for good.

**We practice cultivating partnerships.**

L: We commit ourselves to be guided by these principles:

We are rooted in the living Word and love of God.
We are emboldened by our history.
We are accountable to intentional community.
We practice courageous leadership.
We practice radical welcome.
We practice cultivating partnerships.

**May God, who has called us into community, graciously give us the strength and compassion to live into our commitments. Amen.**
HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light (Siyahamba)

Sing along with the video of the Palatine Children's Chorus from Uganda.


We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

Si - ya - hamb’ e - ku - kha - nyen’ kwen - khos’.
We are marching in the light of God.

Si - ya - hamb’ e - ku - kha - nyen’ kwen - khos’.
We are marching in the light of God, the light of God.

Si - ya - hamb’ e - ku - kha - nyen’ kwen - khos’.
We are marching in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching.

Si - ya - ham - ba.
We are marching.

oo

oo

oo

oo
Go in peace to love and serve all of God’s creation.  
Thanks be to God!  

CLOSING DECLARATION
Acknowledgements
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In Thee is Gladness. Text by Johann Lindemann, tr. Catherine Winkworth.